



*4th December 2020*

**Dates for your diaries**

Inset Days

1<sup>st</sup> February 2021, 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021

FoSS Christmas Class Parties

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December

School Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December

*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*This week has been a real hive of activity. The children are busily preparing for our virtual Christmas performances. Whilst it will be different from 'normal' (whatever that is these days) we hope you still feel the excitement and pride of seeing the children fully engaged in bringing joy to others.*

*It has also been the start of Advent and all the classes have been lighting the first candle of Advent which symbolises 'Hope' - something that at the moment is incredibly pertinent with the announcement of a vaccine.*

*Whilst rehearsing has been going on, each class has of course continued with their learning. Oak class have been reading 'Street Child' and have been creating missing posters for the main character 'Jim Jarvis'. They have been looking specifically at viewpoint and how this can significantly change the information and descriptions included. In PE they have been continuing to hone their Lacrosse skills. Everyone is very hopeful that the Southern regional tournament that is normally held in May will be on so that they can show their real prowess in this sport and of course claim victory.*

*Rowan have been preparing to be storytellers this week and are busily planning their 'Viking' adventure story. The language and ideas that the children have been coming up with would impress even some of the best authors. Maple have also been busy and have been making their own shelters based on the Mesolithic and iron age period whilst also writing in role as a seagull watching the adventures of the Iron Man - this terms text driver.*

*In Beech and Willow, the Great Fire of London has been the focus of their learning. In Willow, some of the children have been writing diary entries as if they were witnesses to the event and in Beech, they have been acting as journalists by writing detailed newspaper reports about what happened.*

*With only two weeks to go until the end of this term, I want to thank you all for your support. For those of you who have taken part in the FOSSIL challenge, I applaud you especially the three fathers who set off this morning for their final event of the challenge - I have to say I have not seen cycling gear quite like that before!*

*Can I please ask that everyone reads the whole of the newsletter as there is a lot of very important information about things from bringing in Christmas Cards to parking responsibly in the car park, all of which will hopefully ensure our final two weeks go smoothly.*

*I hope you all have a lovely weekend.*

*Kind regards,*

*Mrs Hanratty*

**Core Christian Value Awards**

We were very proud to commend our Core Christian Value Award recipients today. Three children from each class are nominated weekly for each of our Core Values: Courage, Compassion and Creativity

	<b>Willow</b>	<b>Beech</b>	<b>Maple</b>	<b>Rowan</b>	<b>Oak</b>
Courage	Evie	Hannah	Zac	Rory	Madsie
Compassion	Jacob	Alfie	Oliver T	Rocco	Megan
Creativity	Bryony V	Eliza	Aubrey	Sophie N	Seth

## Christmas Cards

Some parents have enquired as to whether the children can bring in Christmas cards this year to give to their classmates. We still have to be very mindful of Covid 19 and therefore to ensure that the 'Grinch' does not steal Christmas, we are proposing the following:

If children wish to, they will be able to bring Christmas cards in between **Monday the 7th December** and **Friday the 12th December**. We will have boxes at each gate in which the children should put their Christmas cards in. They SHOULD NOT hand them directly to friends. We will then quarantine the cards and they will be handed out during the week commencing the 14th December 2020.

## FoSS Pupil Christmas Parties - Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December

Friends of Sparsholt School have organised a small Christmas Party for each of our class bubbles on Monday 14th December. Each party will last about 40 minutes and an entertainer will come to entertain each class. If pupils would like to come adorned with a Christmas jumper, hat, hair decoration etc. to add to their uniform, they are very welcome to do so!

## Pupil Christmas Lunch - Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December

This will take place on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Pupils can choose to bring in a packed lunch from home. Alternatively, Hampshire Caterers are offering:

Half turkey/half ham sandwich, cheese twizzle, fruit and cake picnic box. For vegetarians the sandwich is cheese.

## Nativity/ Christmas Celebrations Update

Due to restrictions we will be placing Christmas celebration videos of our children online (School VLE and Tapestry for Yr R) for parents to view. We have costumes for the nativity; however, teachers may request some additional costumes/clothing for their classes and this will come out from individual classes to parents next week. Please note that we have already requested consent from parents to show class videos of children celebrating our events over the Autumn term. If you wish to withdraw consent, please contact the school office. Many thanks

## Be Bright, Be Seen Helmet Competition

Sorry for the delay in sharing with you the results of this competition - we are awaiting the final winner decision from the designer and founder of Dashel Helmets

## After School Childcare for Spring Term 2021

Please contact the school via email ([adminoffice@sparsholt.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@sparsholt.hants.sch.uk)) to confirm your child's continued attendance at After School Club on a Monday, Tuesday Wednesday and/or Thursday for the Spring Term commencing 4th January 2021. Payments for childcare must be made in advance.

Any parents interested in commencing after school club attendance for their child should visit the school website for more information: [https://sparsholt.eschools.co.uk/web/extended\\_school\\_provision/210531](https://sparsholt.eschools.co.uk/web/extended_school_provision/210531) and then contact the school office.

## Behaviour & Anti-bullying Policy

For your information, an updated version of the school's Behaviour Policy can be found on the school website: <https://sparsholt.eschools.co.uk/web/policies>

## Nuts in School

We have pupils and staff who have severe allergic reactions to nuts and nut derivatives. This allergic reaction (anaphylactic shock) can occur through ingestion of peanut/nut products and cross contamination. Since this condition can be life threatening, we are asking for your help in minimising the risk by:

- avoiding giving your child / children nuts and nut derivatives in school lunches and snacks - examples include peanut butter sandwiches, other spreads containing nuts such as Nutella, snacks/bars containing nuts, pesto, nut oils, nut flours and nut milks. (This list is not exhaustive.)
- asking children not to share their lunches.

Due to the severity of the problem, it is important that all parents carry out the suggested measures and reduce the risk of an allergic reaction. We thank you for your co-operation.

## **A reminder on Car Parking Guidelines**

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers of our carpark guidelines:

- **Please vacate the car park promptly after pick-up/drop-off so as not to hinder those with appointments/work commitments to meet**
- Please note the zigzag marking on the road outside the school. The Highway Code states that you should keep these areas clear of stationary vehicles, even if picking up or setting down children. Post Office staff, Sparsholt Parish Council and Sparsholt residents kindly request that you do not park anywhere along Woodman Lane, especially outside the Post Office. Parking here impedes our school coach and the hourly service bus.
- Please do not move your cars when the children walk to or from the bus. We would request that you remain stationary for a few minutes longer and allow the children to safely make their way across the car park
- Please do not park over the marked pedestrian walk-ways in the car-park
- The 3 parking bays closest to the shop are for the use of Post Office/Shop.
- For safety reasons, please refrain from parking in the entrance to the car park
- An alternative to the car park would be to park in Woodman Close and walk up to school through the pathway at the back of the playground - we recommend this option. Please be careful not to impede disabled bays and driveways.
- Please note we are not able to offer the field as an over-flow car park.
- Please make full use of the bus if your child has a pass
- We ask you to be courteous at all times to other users of the car park

## **FOSSIL - Friends Of Sparsholt School In Lycra Update from FoSS Chair, Mrs Bonnie Stagg**

On the 4th of November a bunch of Sparsholt School Mums and Dads calling themselves FOSSILs committed to raising money for FOSS by keeping active during the month of Lockdown.

It is safe to say that the two people who came up with the FOSSIL idea and put it into action never imagined the brilliant response that was received. Over the last month, these fifty or so people and their families have been walking, running, cycling, yoga-ing, dieting, hiit training and open water swimming in the sun, rain, cold and even the dark. And each time they have done one of these things, they have pledged to donate £1 to FOSS.

What has been achieved is amazing and helped in no small way by the mutual encouragement, friendly competition and gentle banter in what has become a great little community. I, for one, have had great fun and have thoroughly enjoyed being connected to this brilliant bunch of people. They have been an inspiration during my rainy bike rides and muddy runs.

During the last month, the Fossils have completed 1062 activities and so raised a total of £1062! They should, each and every one of them, be very proud of themselves!

Maybe lockdown-2 wasn't quite as sunny and "holiday like" as the first but perhaps it's been a bit healthier. And perhaps we've made some new friends as well as a fair few pounds for our amazing school. Any more donations welcome:

### **FOSS Bank Details:**

Account name: FRIENDS OF SPARSHOLT SCH

Bank: Santander Sort code: 090153 Account no: 35353282

### **FOSS Card Payments**

We are delighted to finally be able to take card payments for FOSS. We have invested in a machine that we hope will be well used at FOSS events moving forward (as and when they are allowed). It also means that for those of you using the bus, we can text you a link to make a payment for anything FOSS related. If you need this service please email [friendsofparsholtschool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofparsholtschool@gmail.com) with your order and include your phone number. The machine takes a small percentage of our monies as a fee so bank transfers still allow for better fundraising but we know this new machine will be of great use.

# Sparsholt School Tote Bags

These gorgeous festive tote bags that your talented children designed are now for sale. A great Christmas gift for grandparents/aunts/uncles and of course you. First come first served on limited print order. £5 for this limited edition work of art!



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## Sparsholt School Tote Bags Order form

Simply fill in this form and give it back to the school office or email FOSS.  
Pay with either cash or a cheque (made out to FOSS) or by making an online payment.  
(Please use your surname as reference).

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of bags: \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed/paid £: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Carer

### FOSS Bank Details:

Account name: FRIENDS OF SPARSHOLT SCH

Bank: Santander Sort code: 090153 Account no: 35353282